Contents

- Valemount Blue River Home
- Valemount News Release (Feb 10/05) [pdf]
- Letter from Minister Re: Approval of SRMP [pdf]
- Final SRMP February 2005
- Draft Plan (October)
- Draft Plan (June)
- Summary Feedback
- Downloads
- Links
- Contact

Other Links

- Map Service
- Southern Interior Region Home
- LRMP and SRMP in Southern Interior Region
- LRMP and SRMP in British Columbia

Draft Plan
Valemount to Blue River SRMP

Version: DRAFT October 19th 2004

Map 1 PDF download 1mb

Map 2 PDF download 2.9mb

Contents of the Draft Plan:

- **1.0 Background and Introduction**
- Planning Area and Requirements
- **2.0 Strategic Direction**
- Vision
- Goals
- Zoning System
- Sustainable Development of the Winter Recreation Economy
- Snowmobiling
- Skiing
- Ice Climbing and Other Opportunities
- Commercial Guiding and Tenuring
- Sustaining Environment and Wildlife
- Improving Integration with other Industrial Users
- **3.0 Cooperative Management & Implementation**
- Management Principles
- Community Development Corporation
- Public Education and Safety
- Management and Enforcement
- Controlled Recreation Area
- Integrated Management and Development
- Plan Review and Monitoring

1.0 Background and Introduction

1.1 Planning Area and Requirements

The Valemount to Blue River Winter Recreation Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) covers approximately 700,000 hectares of land between Mount Robson Park in the east and Wells Gray Park in the west and from Horsey Creek in the north, to Blue River in the south (see map

in Figure 1). The SRMP area is within the claimed traditional territory of the Simpcw First Nation (North Thompson Indian Band).

Winter recreation activities, such as heli-skiing and snowmobiling, are a major driver of the local economy in the plan area. These activities include public and commercial (i.e. guided) recreation. Existing recreation related businesses and new recreation business investments depend upon sustaining these activities and managing their growth. In addition to providing economic benefits, these activities also represent opportunities for the general public to enjoy recreational experiences and thereby contribute to the well-being of many Canadians.

There are environmental issues associated with winter recreation in the area that need to be addressed. In particular, there are concerns about the potential impacts of winter recreation on mountain caribou, which are a nationally threatened red listed species (as listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)).

Strategic recreation planning is needed to:

- ensure sustainable development of public and commercial winter recreation activities in the area;
- improve the compatibility of winter recreation activities in the area;
- improve the safety and quality of experience for public and commercial recreationists;
- reduce risks to mountain caribou, other wildlife species, and the environment in general;
- improve integration of winter recreation development and other industrial activities while maintaining existing tenure rights; and,
- maintain public access.

This SRMP, and the processes used to develop it, addresses these issues. The urgency of the issues and the limitations of provincial government planning resources require that the focus be winter recreation; however, additional SRMP planning may occur in the future to address summer recreation. This SRMP draws heavily on the results of an intensive stakeholder consensus building and negotiation process that addressed existing and potential conflicts between snowmobiling, heli-skiing and non-motorized backcountry skiing (1). The stakeholder process also considered the growth and potential for other activities and the need to manage the potential risks to mountain caribou(2). A draft of the SRMP was reviewed by the public through open houses, working group meetings, informal meetings with interested parties, and a website (a summary of the public feedback is available from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management).

Several revisions were made to the draft SRMP in response to the public feedback including:

- elimination of proposed "guided only area" designations;
- reduction in proposed snowmobile closures to maintain opportunities for backcountry snowmobiling;
- reduction in the number of snowmobile closures to be managed using the Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) designation at the outset of implementation (in turn, there will be an increased provincial commitment to an integrated education and enforcement strategy for snowmobile closures). Four CRAs will be implemented on a pilot basis to further explore their utility; and,
- increased emphasis on winter recreation activities such as backcountry skiing and ice climbing.

The development and implementation of the SRMP is the responsibility of an interagency committee chaired by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) with representation from the Ministry of Forests (MoF), Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP), and Land and Water British Columbia Inc. (LWBC).

· Top

2.0 Strategic Direction

2.1 Vision

The Valemount to Blue River area will become a world-class, year-round tourist destination that supports healthy and vibrant communities. A wide range of recreation activities will be sustained in the area and the economic benefits from these activities will support local businesses and communities. These activities will coexist with each other and not endanger the local environment and wildlife populations (3).

2.2 Goals

1. Promote a sustainable tourism economy by:
    a. Improving services, management, and infrastructure resulting in increased marketability and sustainable growth.
    b. Increasing the compatibility between all recreation activities.
    c. Enhancing the safety of all recreation activities.

2. Support sustainable communities by:
    a. Encouraging respect and mutual support between all recreationists and commercial tenure holders.
    b. Developing mutually beneficial relationships between commercial recreation businesses and local communities.
    c. Respecting public access.

3. Maintain a sustainable environment by:
    a. Managing all uses to minimize impacts on the environment, wildlife populations, and habitat.

2.3 Zoning System

Winter Recreation zones are being implemented to increase recreation opportunities, reduce conflict between recreation activities, and reduce risks to mountain caribou. These zones specify activities that are emphasized, managed, or excluded.

The zones include:

Managed Snowmobile Zone
Areas where emphasis is placed on supporting snowmobile access and use. These areas will be managed under Management Agreements between local organizations (e.g. the new Valemount Area Recreation Development Association, VARDA) and the Provincial Government. Snowmobile users will be charged fees which will be used to pay for services such as cabin and trail construction and maintenance, snowmobile patrol, and grooming.

Helicopter and Backcountry Ski Zone
Areas where emphasis is placed on helicopter skiing and ski touring. Snowmobiling is limited to specified time periods. Other forms of non-motorized public recreational use are unrestricted(4).

Non-Motorized Backcountry Winter Recreation Zone
Areas where emphasis is placed on non-motorized backcountry winter recreation such as ski touring. Heli-skiing and snowmobiling are either restricted or not permitted.

Snowcat-Ski Zone
Areas where emphasis is placed on snowcat assisted skiing. Snowmobiling is either restricted or not permitted.

Sled Skiing/Boarding Zone
Areas where emphasis is placed on snowmobile assisted skiing and snowboarding.

Ice Climbing Zone
Areas where emphasis is placed on ice climbing. Public recreation cabin sites to support the activity may be identified in these zones.

Ski Touring Traverse
Areas or routes where emphasis is placed on maintaining alpine ski touring traverse opportunities. Future public ski touring cabin sites may be identified along these routes to facilitate use of the traverses.

Snowmobile Closure Zone
Areas closed to snowmobiling to reduce conflicts with other users and to reduce risk to mountain caribou. Closures may be for a specified time period or for the full season. These zones may overlap with other zones.

2.4 Sustainable Development of the Winter Recreation Economy

2.4.1 Snowmobiling

Sustainable development of snowmobiling in the area requires a number of different actions including:

Expansion and enhanced management of managed snowmobile areas (Managed Snowmobile Zone) and the development of a "Snowmobile Destination Area". Expansion areas include new managed area at Oasis, Keyhole, Horsey Creek, Allan Creek (extended), North Thompson (valley bottom) and on the Westridge (see Map 1 PDF download 1mb). Several of these areas (Oasis, Allan Creek , Keyhole, Clemina, North Thompson and Chapell) will be managed as an integrated snowmobile destination area with strategically located parking lots that service more than one of the areas. Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH) and Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing (MWH) have volunteered to withdraw their tenure in these areas to help expedite establishment of a snowmobile destination area(5). Enhanced management will be provided, in part, through a local non-profit organization(s) such as the recently established community group,

VARDA. VARDA intends to assume responsibility (formerly held by local clubs) for the snowmobile area Management Agreements for these areas.

2. Snowmobile trail systems.
Improved trail networks have the potential to link the managed areas and provide an enhanced snowmobile touring experience and new tenure opportunities in the planning area. The existing trail network needs to be upgraded and new connections developed. Preliminary trail development proposals are indicated on Map 1(PDF download 1mb). Development of this local trail network should be integrated with development of regional trail networks under related planning processes.

3. Snowmobile industry development action plan.
Local businesses are working with VARDA to develop and implement an action plan to develop the snowmobile industry in the area. This action plan includes market research, marketing, infrastructure development, fund raising and financing, enhanced Snow Patrol, guide training, and a snowmobile guiding tenure application

SRMP Objectives

1. Establish/expand/adjust managed snowmobile areas at Oasis, Robina, Horsey Creek, Allan Creek , North Thompson, and on the Westridge (Map 1). Manage Oasis, Robina, Allan Creek , Clemina Creek, North Thompson and Chappell as an integrated snowmobile destination area.

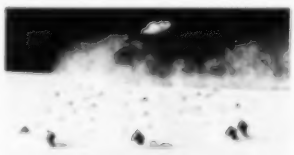
2. Do not allocate new heli-ski tenures in the areas where heli-ski tenure has been voluntarily withdrawn to facilitate snowmobile destination area development.

3. Develop a snowmobile trail system that links communities with the managed areas while minimizing potential impacts on mountain caribou.

4. Manage the Foster/Oma and Horseshoe areas to maintain historical snowmobile use levels in partnership with Timberline Snowgoers, Blue River Powder Packers, and Mike Wiegele Helicopter skiing.

2.4.2 Skiing

Sustainable development of skiing in the area requires a number of different actions including:



1. Securing heli-ski and backcountry ski experiences.
Maintenance of heli-ski and backcountryski opportunities requires closure of some intensively used ski areas to snowmobiling. The areas identified on Map 1 will be closed to recreational snowmobiling to protect the experience of helicopter and backcountry skiers and to ensure the safety of all. Some of these areas are only closed for part of the snowmobile season as outlined in Table 1.(6)

Location	Closure dates(7)

Twilight Area	December 1st to April 30th
Westridge Closures(8)	December 1st to April 30th
West of Westridge (9)	December 1st to April 1st
Westridge nonmotorized zone	All season
(Bunny Buster South)	
Cat Ski Zone	December 1st until end of cat ski operations
Canoe Closures	December 1st to April 30th
North Thompson Closures(10)	December 1st to April 30th
Lebher Creek(11)	December 1st to March 15th
"Highway"	December 1st to April 23rd
Swift Creek	December 1st to April 15th
Yellowjacket Creek	December 1st to April 1 th
Bulldog Creek	December 1st to April 15th
David Henry Creek	December 1st to April 1 th
All closures in MWH tenure area with the exception of Thunder Lookout	December 1st until end of heli ski operations
Thunder Lookout(12)	December 1 st to April 1st(13)

2. The Westridge area has excellent skiing potential including helicopter, snowmobile, and snowcat skiing as well as ski touring. A destination ski area is proposed for the eastern slopes of Westridge and Mica Mountain (Map 2 PDF download 2.9mb) that includes the following zones:

Cat Ski Zone This involves expansion of cat skiing at Ski Hill and Mica Mountains . This cat ski development overlaps the previously proposed alpine ski development on Ski Hill Mountain which may one day be realized. In the interim, cat skiing can increase opportunities to ski in this area.

Non-Motorized Zone This includes a non-motorized backcountry ski area in the vicinity of the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA) cabin at Westridge. Heli-skiing in this backcountry area will not occur on Bunny Buster South. In addition, and with advanced notice(14) from YORA, CMH will do its best to avoid using the Andiamo and Christmas runs.

Snowmobile Corridor A snowmobile corridor through the Non-Motorized zone will provide access to snowmobiling opportunities in the Bunny Buster/Felicity basin. This corridor is also intended to provide access to the YORA cabin and access for sled-skiing on the eastern slopes of Westridge.

Sled-Skiing Zone Sled-skiing and boarding on the eastern slopes of Westridge. There is significant potential for enhancement of these ski runs through appropriately designed timber harvesting blocks.

Snowmobile Closure Zone A snowmobile closure for the entire ski zone except for the corridor.

3. Development of Sled-Skiing on Crystal Ridge.

Establishment of a sled skiing/boarding zone on Crystal Ridge (see Map 1 PDF download 1mb) will increase the opportunities for local skiing/boarding. There is significant potential for enhancement of these ski runs through appropriately designed timber harvesting blocks and strategically located trails.

4. Protecting Ski Touring Opportunities at Robina.
Establishment of a non-motorized zone in the vicinity of the YORA cabin at Robina will protect ski touring opportunities in this area.

5. Ski traverses and hut-to-hut ski touring.
There are outstanding high alpine ski traverses in the plan area with potential for enhancement through construction of ski touring huts. In particular, the Cariboo traverse, the Bone Creek traverse, and the Clemina Robina traverse have the potential to provide excellent hut-to-hut ski-touring opportunities.

SRMP Objectives- Westridge and Crystal Ridge

5. Establish recreational snowmobile closures as per Map 1 (PDF download 1mb) with time limitations outlined in Table 1.
6. Establish Westridge Ski Destination Area with identified Snowcat Ski, Non-Motorized, Sled-skiing and Snowmobile Closure Zones with a snowmobile corridor to access the Felecia/Bunny Buster North Basin as per Map 2 (PDF download 2.9mb).
7. Establish a Sled-skiing/boarding zone at Crystal Ridge as per Map 1.
8. Establish a Non-Motorized Zone at Robina as per Map 1.
9. Maintain and enhance ski traverse opportunities along the Cariboo traverse, the Bone Creek Traverse and the Clemina Robina traverse. Over time and where appropriate explore the need for improved overnight accommodation
10. Encourage cooperation between ski tourers and heliski companies throughout the Helicopter and Backcountry Ski Zone particularly along ski touring traverses and at popular ski touring destinations (e.g. Westridge and GoGo Juice/Powder Hut)

2.4.3 Ice Climbing and Other Opportunities

Ice Climbing: The lower Bone Creek area contains outstanding ice climbing opportunities. With limited development, such as improved signage and mapping, and cabin construction, this area would support expanded public recreation opportunities for ice climbing activity.

There are other winter recreation development opportunities that require detailed investigation on a site specific basis including :

1. Helicopter and snowmobile assisted ski touring - This activity has potential for local and visiting recreational skiers as well as the development of a guided ski product that would add to the diversity and marketability of the area as a ski destination.

2. Dog sledding - There is potential to further develop a dog sledding adventure product in the area.

This list is not intended to exclude other winter recreation activities that may have potential presently or in the future.(15)

SRMP Objectives

11. Establish an Ice Climbing Zone at lower Bone Creek and identify an appropriate public recreation cabin site as per Map 1.(PDF download 1mb)
12. Working with the communities and stakeholders explore other winter recreation that complements the existing range of opportunities.

2.4.4 Commercial Guiding and Tenuring

Expansion of guiding services to support winter recreation activities like snowmobiling and ski touring requires small business development with potential benefits to local communities and the local economy. The winter recreation zoning in this plan identifies some of the areas where new tenured guiding services can be provided (e.g. snowmobile guides in the destination area). In addition to these areas, a cooperative approach between existing tenured operations and new applicants can help develop the new opportunities. Building on the commitments made in the Stakeholder Agreement, existing winter recreation businesses should support development of new guiding services to help diversify the economy.

SRMP Objectives

13. Explore and fully consider the potential for development/expansion of undeveloped winter recreation activities including but not limited to helicopter and snowmobile assisted ski touring, hut to hut ski touring and dogsledding. Provide new tenure opportunities to support these activities where needed following Land and Water BC Inc. policy.

2.5 Sustaining Environment and Wildlife

Impacts on the environment and wildlife from recreational activity and development are addressed at the strategic level in the SRMP and at the operational level during development and management planning (e.g. development or revision to a management plan associated with a commercial recreation tenure or a Management Agreement). Operational guidelines have been developed by recreation user groups and MWLAP to manage environmental and wildlife

impacts resulting from recreation activities. Given the level of concern for mountain caribou, the SRMP provides more extensive direction regarding this species. This direction includes strategic management objectives, recreational snowmobile closures in key mountain caribou habitat, detailed operational procedures for commercial activities as well as cooperative research and monitoring. Heli-skiing is an approved activity in areas closed to snowmobiling because it is guided and therefore the potential impacts are easier to manage. Mountain goats and grizzly bears are also a recreation management concern and strategic direction is provided with respect to them as well.

SRMP Objectives

General Objective for Environment and Wildlife

14. Periodically update existing recreation management plans to better reflect the best available wildlife inventory, guidelines and monitoring procedures.

15. Design winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in such a way as to avoid and mitigate impacts on the environment, wildlife populations and habitat.

16. Enhance public awareness of key wildlife habitats and appropriate recreation practices in the vicinity of these habitats.

Mtn. Caribou Objectives

17. Conduct winter recreation operations in a manner that avoids displacement and disturbance of mountain caribou, particularly in core early and late winter ranges.

18. Reduce risks to mountain caribou by closing the areas identified on Map 1 to recreational snowmobiling. Where future information identifies areas of concern (snowmobile/caribou conflict) the closure area should be modified to address those concerns.

19. Apply and refine best management practices to reduce risk of disturbance or displacement of mountain caribou from winter recreation activity. Best management practices should include avoidance of mountain caribou, avoidance of critical habitats, as well as designated flight paths and trails and seasonal timing restrictions where appropriate.

20. Integrate best recreation management practices and improved information regarding mountain caribou into commercial recreation tenure and recreation management agreement plans to reduce risk of disturbance or displacement to mountain caribou.

21. Locate and design recreation infrastructure in a manner that avoids displacement and disturbance of mountain caribou.

22. Ensure effective management of snowmobiling in the Managed Snowmobile Zones that overlap caribou habitat including:
a. provision of information to snowmobilers regarding the location of closures (signs and maps);
b. compliance and enforcement of caribou closures; and,

c. provision of information to snowmobilers regarding appropriate behaviour if caribou are in the area.

23. Provide public information regarding the threatened status of the mountain caribou in the area and related recreation management objectives and strategies.

24. Ensure the SRMP mountain caribou management, monitoring and research directions are coordinated with related mountain caribou research and planning initiatives (e.g. Recovery Implementation Groups).

25. Commercial recreation tenure holders and management agreement holders should work cooperatively with each other and with responsible provincial agencies, First Nations, and public interest groups to implement monitoring and research programs that:
a. assess the status of the mountain caribou populations and strengthen baseline databases on an ongoing basis;
b monitor compliance with the SRMP mountain caribou management direction;
c assess the effectiveness of the SRMP mountain caribou management direction; and,
d. improve understanding of the impacts of different winter recreational activities on mountain caribou.

26. The critical caribou winter range on the south side of Camp Creek is closed to snowmobiling and will no longer have heli-ski tenure over it (part of the tenure withdrawal area). This area should be considered a high priority for inclusion in research aimed at assessing the impacts of motorized winter recreation on Caribou.

SRMP Mountain Goats Objectives

27. Incorporate measures into the design of winter recreation infrastructure, and the conduct of winter recreation activities to:
a. maintain the natural distribution and abundance of mountain goats;
b. maintain the functional integrity of mountain goat habitat;
c. avoid displacement of goats from their winter and kidding/early ranges; and,
d. minimize stress caused by human disturbance and avoid disruption to natural behaviour patterns.

SRMP Grizzly Bears Objectives

23. Incorporate measures into winter recreation activities and developments that:
a. minimize impact on grizzly bear habitat and denning sites;
b. minimize conflicts between grizzly bears and humans, e.g. prevent grizzly bear access to human supplied foods.

2.6 Improving Integration with other Industrial Users

This SRMP provides information that is intended to assist integrated planning for other industrial activities. Building on the commitments made in the stakeholder agreement, recreational stakeholders need to work together with forest companies and BC Timber Sales to maximize the integration of forest development activities and winter recreation opportunities. This integration can involve cutblock design, as well as priorities for forestry development, access, and road deactivation.

SRMP Objectives

29. Integrate winter recreation activities with the management of other resource uses (e.g. forestry and mining) to optimize the economic and social benefits derived.

30. Recreation development planning needs to address:
    a. safety requirements in areas of industrial operations;
    b. avoidance of industrial roads when they are needed for industrial operations;
    c. impacts on regenerating forests; and,
    d. impacts of any potential visual management requirements.

Top

3.0 Cooperative Management & Implementation

Implementation of this SRMP involves cooperation and partnerships between governments, non-government organizations, and the private sector. These relationships may be formalized through implementation agreements, memoranda of understanding or other joint working arrangements. These arrangements are intended to support achievement of management objectives and ensure efficient use of available human and financial resources within government and outside.

Implementation Agreements are expected or encouraged for:

- Public education and safety, involving the Snow Patrol, heli-ski companies, local snowmobile groups, VARDA, and the Ministry of Forests.
- Management and enforcement, involving the Conservation Officer Service, the Snow Patrol, heli-ski companies, local snowmobile groups, VARDA, LWBC, and the Ministry of Forests.
- Integrated management and development, involving VARDA, other winter recreation groups, forest licensees, heli-ski companies, and government agencies.

The SRMP is intended to be consistent with the overlapping Land and Resource Management Plans (Robson Valley and Kamloops) and compatible with the recently developed Crown Land Plan in the Valemount area. Improved integration with these other plans will occur as the SRMP is finalized and throughout implementation.

3.1 Management Principles

The following principles are proposed as a foundation for cooperative management and implementation and the basis for developing and managing winter recreation in the area.

- Governments, businesses, and residents should work together in an open, fair and productive environment to build the area into a more attractive year-round destination and service centre for backcountry activities, soft adventure, and eco-tourism.
- Local businesses, stakeholders, and governments need to take a leadership role and provide the required coordination effort and sustained commitment to achieve the vision.
- A carefully planned and well managed range of winter recreation products such as snowmobiling and commercial snowmobile tours, helicopter skiing, backcountry skiing, snowcat-skiing, sled-skiing, dog sledding, and alpine (downhill) skiing have the potential to diversify and strengthen the area's winter economy.
- A range of planning, infrastructure, communication, education, and enforcement tools are necessary to achieve the vision. Given that many recreationists are independent, public education is essential to achieve management objectives, and compliance should be promoted in a collaborative and positive manner.
- It is essential to cultivate respect amongst recreation groups, and respect for the environment, to enhance implementation of the SRMP.
- Governments, businesses, and residents need to be aware of the inherent risks that are associated with winter backcountry mountain recreation. They need to ensure that public and commercial activities are managed to provide the safest possible experience for residents and visitors using widely acceptable and consistently improving standards of hazard awareness, loss prevention, and risk management.

SRMP Objectives

31. Ensure that winter recreation management within the SRMP area reflects the plan management principles.

3.2 Community Based Development

Local commercial and non-commercial recreation interests in Valemount and Blue River have created a new community based management and development organization called the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA). VARDA is based in Valemount and is intended to:

- provide enhanced management and development for snowmobiling in the area including taking on formal responsibility for managing the Managed Snowmobile Zones;
- raise funds to support sustainable development of snowmobiling and other winter recreation activities;
- provide Snow Patrol services;
- apply for and provide tenure management support for guided snowmobile tours;
- support the development of other recreational opportunities; and,
- participate in SRMP monitoring and implementation.

3.3 Public Education and Safety

Maintaining and improving the safety of winter recreationists is a critical priority. Local stakeholders (e.g. VARDA) are committed to working collaboratively with the provincial government and local governments to:

1. ***Improve Public Awareness.*** This includes developing maps and signage to identify recreation zones and trails, hazards, recreation activity closures and limitations, and wildlife habitat/closures. Maps should be made publicly available at trailheads and cabins, snowmobile shops, the Valemount and Blue River tourist information centres, accommodation facilities and lodges, restaurants, and through commercial recreation operations.
2. ***Improve Avalanche Awareness.*** This includes providing recreational avalanche courses. CMH, MWH and VARDA are committed to supporting formal and informal avalanche training courses in the local communities for locals and visitors.
3. ***Provide winter recreation training opportunities for youth.*** Local commercial and non-commercial winter recreation interests are working with local schools and colleges to provide guide and avalanche training to youth.
4. ***Improve Communications.*** This involves improving communications between government enforcement authorities, snowmobile patrols, heli-skiing/snowmobile guides, other commercial recreation operators, and rental shops to facilitate coordination of recreational activities and the safety of all.
5. ***Develop and Promote a Code of Ethics.*** This code should address issues such as:
    - conduct when different user groups meet;
    - protection of infrastructure needed by different users (i.e. signs, stakes and equipment);
    - awareness of other users and the danger of triggering avalanches;
      coordinating recreation activities;
    - conduct when encountering wildlife; and,
    - maintaining the integrity of the environment.
6. ***Qualify and Promote Snowmobile Guides.*** This includes developing improved programs, guidelines, and a system of education to provide appropriate snowmobile specific training and certification for snowmobile guides. Visiting snowmobilers will be encouraged to use guides.
7. ***Expand the Snow Patrol*** . The target is two appropriately trained and certified patrollers in each managed snowmobile area, including Westridge. The functions of the patrol include:
    - provide assistance and information to the public riding in the managed areas regarding terrain difficulty, hazards, closures, and appropriate response when wildlife is encountered;
    - monitoring snowmobile activity;
    - communicate and coordinate with heli-ski and snowmobile guides to reinforce coordinated use, safety, and rescues where required;
    - observe, record, and report, and work in conjunction with enforcement officials (the RCMP, Forest Service Officers, Conservation Officers, and Land Officers); and,
    - collect statistics and maintain records.
8. ***Improve Search and Rescue.*** This involves relevant parties working together to enhance search and rescue capacity in the valley including coordinating with the Provincial Emergency Program.

SRMP Objectives

32. Ensure a high standard of safety for winter recreationists including improving public awareness of hazards, training for the general public, youth, Snow Patrol and local guides, and delivery of search and rescue services.

3.4 Management and Enforcement

Integrated and collaborative management and enforcement is essential to achieving the SRMP management objectives. In particular, specific implementation agreements are required for:

- managing snowmobile use levels in the Horseshoe, Foster/ Oma areas; and,
- coordinated enforcement.

A range of legislation is available to implement the recreational closures established by the SRMP including: *Wildlife Act* (closures for caribou), *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Land Act* (closures to separate incompatible uses). Administration and enforcement of these closures needs to be based on a coordinated approach.

SRMP Objectives

33. Establish a coordinated approach to public education and enforcement involving relevant government agencies, the local Snow Patrol, and relevant commercial operators.

3.4.1 Controlled Recreation Area

CRAs are applied in specific areas where the intensity of activity and resource values require more concentrated management. CRAs place more management responsibility on commercial operators to ensure the safe and orderly use of the designated area. They are established as part of a commercial tenure. In this planning context, CRAs are being tested on a pilot project basis in parts of the snowmobile closure zone where there are very high value heli-ski runs and a need for enhanced management and enforcement of the snowmobile closure. Government is developing a comprehensive Commercial Recreation and Resort policy framework, which will build on the CRA pilot project and provide broader direction and guidelines for future use of CRAs. Full implementation of the CRA proposals that were tabled during the SRMP planning process will occur, subject to the new policy framework and based on lessons learned from the pilot project.

A CRA designation does not affect existing (as per this SRMP) and/or compatible recreation activities or tenured uses. Map 1 (PDF download 1mb) identifies the pilot CRAs.

SRMP Objectives

34. Establish CRAs on a pilot project basis in the locations identified on Map 1.

3.5 Integrated Management and Development.

Local stakeholders are committed to working collaboratively with forest licensees to integrate forestry and recreational development opportunities. This kind of collaboration is currently underway in the 8 Peaks SRMP Area and has been practiced less comprehensively in the Valemount area. Integrated forestry development has significant potential to enhance the achievement of the SRMP recreation management objectives

3.6 Plan Review and Monitoring

Every two years, MSRM will conduct a review of the approved SRMP to assess progress in plan implementation. Every five years, the MSRM Regional Director will conduct a review of the approved SRMP to assess the extent to which the plan is effective in achieving defined objectives. Where regional interpretation of effectiveness monitoring results shows that the objectives are not effective in achieving stated planning objectives, the Regional Director will coordinate the development of measures to improve effectiveness. The Regional Director will undertake these reviews in collaboration with all affected interests.

MSRM recognizes that new information will become available that may require revisiting portions of this plan and therefore will monitor implementation accordingly. This SRMP and/or the legal objectives established to implement it may be subject to review at times other than the specified two/five year scheduled review in order to address issues that arise. There are a number of issues that will likely arise in the near future, such as the impact of increasing levels of recreational activity on recreational experiences and the environment, which will have to be addressed through revisions and amendments to the SRMP.

SRMP Objectives

35. Government agencies will work with local stakeholders and the general public to monitor implementation of the plan and revise the plan as needed to address emerging issues (e.g. new zoning requirements, new cabin proposals) or implementation difficulties (e.g. excessive infractions in closed areas).

· Top

(1) This process occurred between December 2003 and March 2004.

(2) Stakeholders represented in the negotiations include a coalition of local recreation interests that are based in Valemount, Canadian Mountain Holidays, and Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing. For a copy of the stakeholder agreement contact the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

(3) This vision and the goals are more encompassing than this winter

recreation SRMP in order to facilitate integration of future recreation planning and development initiatives that are oriented to achieving the same outcomes.

(4) Approval of commercial recreation will follow Land and Water British Columbia Inc. policy.

(5) MWH will retain some forested ski runs adjacent to the Oasis area.

(6) These closures are not intended to block access for commercial recreation or public recreation opportunities beyond the closures. Requirements for corridors that are compatible with the values protected in the closures will be dealt with on a site specific basis as the SRMP is implemented.

(7) If heli-ski or cat ski operations end earlier than the closure end dates, then the end date will be changed to the end of operations. This does not apply to the nonmotorized closure.

(8) Excluding non-motorized closure area and West of Westridge.

(9) Sledders must stay on designated corridor across Nectar. Kobi glacier will be open to use after April 1 st subject to compliance monitoring and closure if compliance cannot be achieved.

(10) Excluding Highway and Lebher Creek.

(11) Continued snowmobile use in this area is contingent upon adherence to boundaries of closures.

(12) Continued snowmobile use in this area is contingent upon adherence to boundaries of closures.

(13) This closure will be extended until after the international Powder 8s competition if they are being held in this area, to be determined on an annual basis.

(14) Notification will be by email as soon as possible when YORA knows of the use.

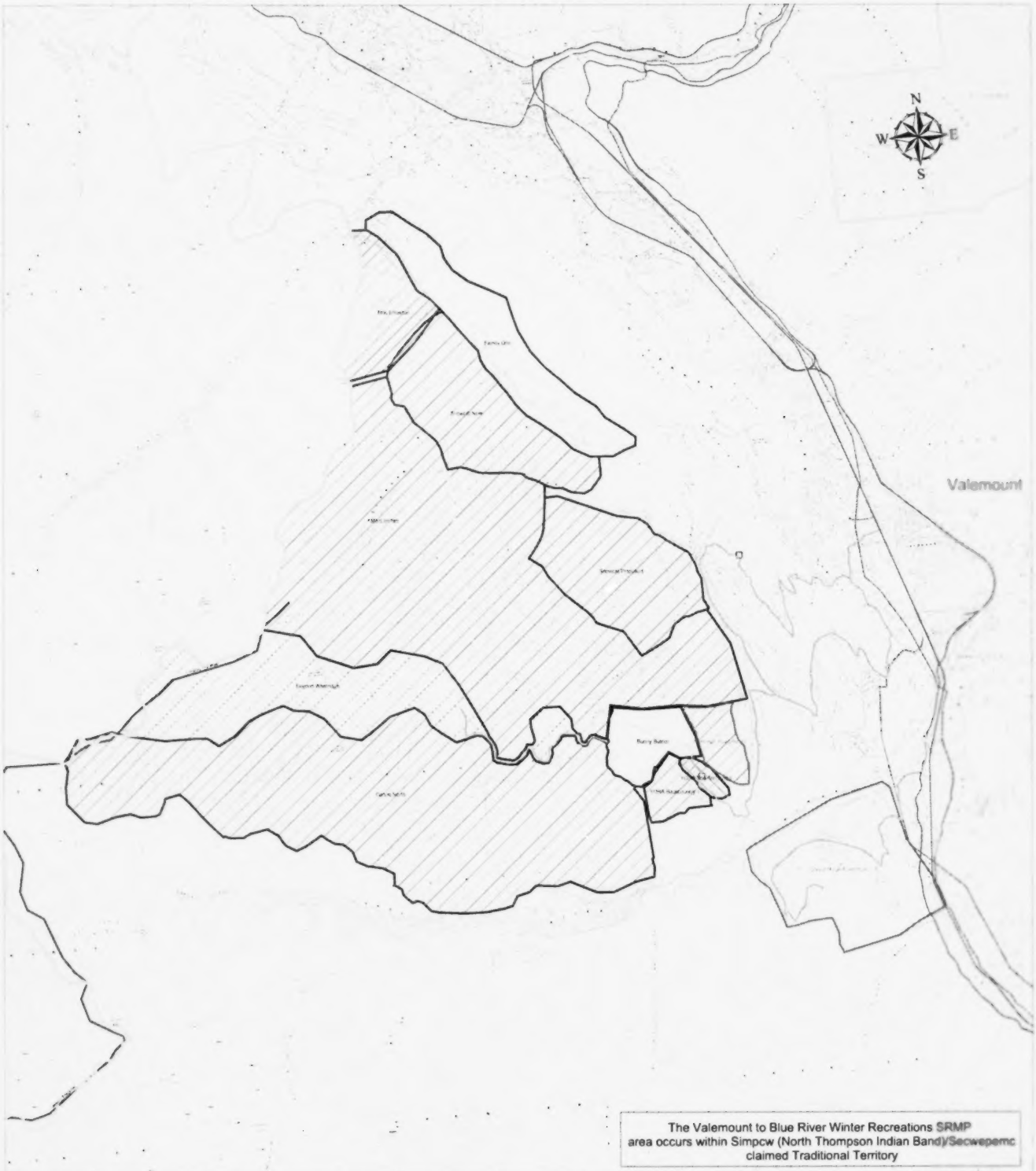
(15) Note: The closures proposed in this SRMP are not intended to limit the development of compatible activities.

· Top

•Top •Copyright •Disclaimer •Privacy •Feedback

N
W
E
S
Valemount
Blue River
The Valemount to Blue River Winter Recreations SRMP area occurs within Simpcw (North Thompson Indian Band)/Secwepemc claimed Traditional Territory

MAP 2 - VALEMOUNT TO BLUE RIVER SRMP PLAN - WESTRIDGE DRAFT - October 19, 2004


N
W
E
S
Valemount
The Valemount to Blue River Winter Recreations SRMP area occurs within Simpcw (North Thompson Indian Band)/Secwepemc claimed Traditional Territory

Provincial Parks
SRMP Boundary
Roads
Rail
Transmission and Pipelines
Managed Snowmobile Zone
Helicopter and Backcountry Ski Zone
Non-Motorized Backcountry Winter Recreation Zone
Snowcat-Ski Zone
Sled Skiing/ Boarding Zone
Ice Climbing Zone
Ski Touring Traverse
Snowmobile Trails
Snowmobile Closure Zones
Recreation Closure
Caribou Closure
Non-Motorized Closure
Huts and Cabins
Snowmobile Destination Area

Data Sources

Map Prepared by: Kamloops Service Center, LSD, MSRM
Produced: October 19th, 2004
Projection: BC Albers Equal Area, NAD83

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Kilometers

Scale 1:40,000

Project Path: W:\lam\kam\Workarea\Kachorek\projects\SRS-0380_Valemount_SRMP